

## Reasons NOT to Burn

The most important reason for not burning is plain and simple—it is **never good to breathe in smoke**. Smoke produced from open burning may contain harmful or toxic pollutants. These pollutants may cause eye, nose and throat irritation; lung irritation, shortness of breath, congestion and cough; stomach upset, headaches, even memory loss. Repeated exposure can increase one's risk of developing cancer. Open burning also contributes to the formation of ground level ozone, which can harm human health, trees, vegetation and our buildings.

Please keep in mind, that even if smoke doesn't bother you, it may be bothering your neighbor. If someone complains, put out the fire!

## Alternatives to Burning

\***Mulching lawnmowers** provide a handy way to dispose of leaves and plant debris. Decaying materials will enrich the soil.

\***Composting yard waste** can turn grass clippings, leaves, and garden leftovers into rich fertilizer.

\***Rent, borrow, or purchase a chipper** to grind up tree limbs and sticks. You'll have fresh mulch to protect your landscape plants and shrubs.

\*City of Evansville residents can have **yard waste collected curbside**—Fridays from mid-March to early December are "Yard Waste" pick-up days.

\*Do your part to **reduce, reuse, and recycle**. Creating less of a demand on natural resources helps the environment in many ways. Less trash and debris eases the burden on already-full landfills.



Environmental Protection Agency  
100 E. Walnut St., Suite 100  
C.K. Newsome Community Center  
Evansville, IN 47713

To:



# Open Burning Rules

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## EVANSVILLE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

100 E. Walnut Street, C.K. Newsome Community Center, Suite 100, Evansville, IN 47713

Phone: (812) 435-6145; Fax: (812) 435-6155; [www.evansvillegov.org/eepea](http://www.evansvillegov.org/eepea)

### RULES FOR RECREATIONAL FIRES

The Evansville Environmental Protection Agency (EEPA) has jurisdiction within the city of Evansville and the area four miles beyond the city limits, but not outside of Vanderburgh County. All citizens and property owners within EEPA jurisdiction are expected to comply with local burning regulations as outlined in the Evansville Municipal Code 16.05.200.

**A Recreational Fire is a small fire on the ground (open burning) conducted for enjoyment, cooking, camping, etc., which is maintained at less than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height.**

“Open Burning” refers to the burning of material where the resulting air contaminants are emitted directly into the air without first passing through a stack or chimney.

#### Within EEPA Jurisdiction:

*(please refer to the Indiana Dept. of Environmental Management for sources outside EEPA jurisdiction)*

All Recreational Fires **require advance approval** from the EEPA office—call (812) 435-6145 during normal business hours (M-F, 8am-5pm). Approval may not be granted to chronic or severe violators.

Use of outdoor cooking grills, stationary (built-in) patio fireplaces, portable patio fire bowls, and Chimineas® are not currently regulated and do NOT require advance approval.

Use of a burn barrel is PROHIBITED within city limits.

Fires on the ground are PROHIBITED during Air Quality Alerts (Ozone or Particulate) and Burn Bans. Under certain conditions, patio fire bowls and Chimineas may also be prohibited during a burn ban. Call for burn ban details.

Burning may be PROHIBITED within mobile home parks, apartment complexes, condominium complexes, or similar multi-family dwellings. Consult the property manager regarding rules for your place of residence before calling for a burn approval.

#### The following applies to all recreational fires:

- **Only clean, untreated wood** or charcoal shall be burned— nothing that has been painted, treated, stained, glued, laminated, etc.
  - No poison ivy, poison sumac, or other allergenic materials
  - No root balls, stumps, or piles of leaves
  - No asbestos-containing materials
  - No trash, paper, or plastics
  - No furniture, carpet, TV's, appliances or tires
- No waste generated as a result of a routine business operation shall be burned. The fire is not to be used for disposal or salvage purposes.
- Only one fire/pile is allowed at a time.
- The fire shall be attended at all times while burning and shall remain attended until it is completely extinguished.
- Adequate fire protection (water hose, etc.) shall be on-site for extinguishing purposes, at all times during burning.
- Fires shall not be ignited with fuel, oil, tires, or any other petroleum product or smoke-producing material.
- Burning shall not be conducted during unfavorable meteorological conditions, including, but not limited to—temperature inversions, high winds, Ozone Alerts, Particulate Alerts, extremely dry conditions, or bans.
- If at any time the fire: produces excessive smoke or offensive odor which creates an air pollution problem, a threat to public health, becomes a nuisance or is a safety hazard, it shall be extinguished.
- All burning must comply with state and local regulations, and must be conducted on the authorized site.
- Owners will be held responsible for fires located on their property when an attendee is not present.
- In the event of a complaint or other incident, responding personnel (i.e. Fire Dept., federal, state, or local officials) will determine if advance approval from the EEPA was obtained and if the fire complied with all applicable rules. Noncompliance will result in a Letter of Violation being issued, which may include a monetary penalty.
- The fire shall not be located within 100 feet of any fuel storage area or pipeline.